

as a bona fide effort to meet any potential response requirements outstanding and due in the above captioned matter.

Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please delete claims 1 - 14 as filed with the international application PCT/BE99/00115 and amended according to Art. 34 PCT on September 6, 2000.

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15. (new) Vertical suitcase of essentially parallelipipedal shape without rigid frame having faces consisting of supple material, wherein the rigidification of the suitcase is achieved by two tubes joining a lower surface¹² part and an (upper surface part²) supporting the (aforesaid¹²) supple material, said (tubes²) consisting of (guides³) for the rods of a (retractable handle⁴) provided in the upper part, said tubes being adjacent to a rear face opposite a front face able to be opened or provided with an opening, the upper and lower parts being in the form of a [molded piece^{DRW}] [or a plate or sheet of plastic of incurvated form] defining at least the

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10/12/15 upper and lower rounded arrises of the rear face of the suitcase, the lateral faces being each made of a supple material and being hooped by a (retaining elastic ring) ✓

16. (new) Suitcase according to claim 1 in wherein the plastic is a semirigid plastic. ✓

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17. (new) Suitcase according to claim 1 wherein the upper and lower surface parts constitute the separate elements forming upper shell and lower shell. ✓

18. (new) Suitcase according to claim 1 wherein the upper and lower surface parts are integrated into one integral piece with a central part covered by the rear face. ✓

19. (new) Suitcase according to claim 1 wherein (the incurvated form of the lower part or shell is imposed by the curved extremity of the tubes, the incurvated form of the upper part or ^{NAP} shell being imposed by the lateral retaining rings, such being preferably (metallic retaining rings)) ✓

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provided in the form of two lateral frames defining the lateral faces in flexible material.

20. (new) Suitcase according to claim 1 wherein the upper and lower parts are in the form of a polyethylene [sheet or plate.]

21. (new) Suitcase according to claim 1 wherein [the sheet constituting the upper part or ^{NBA} shell] does not support at least a front part of the upper face of the suitcase.

22. (new) Suitcase according to the ^{wt} [preceding claim] characterized in that a zip fastener opening, for example an opening zipper provided on the front face of the suitcase, extends up to at least the aforesaid front part, preferably between ^{AWR} [10% and 50%, more preferably 15 to 40%,] of its surface, enabling a partial opening of the upper face.